

attending Physician, it appears that twenty patients had been supported therein during the past year, free of any charge.

Your committee believing this statement to be correct, regard Mount Hope as the only institution in this State of like character, which has within its walls any insane patient free of all charges whatsoever. If this Institution should be destroyed, then these unfortunate beings—bereft of reason—deprived of their present tender guardians, and without any means of support, will be thrown upon the cold charity of the world—mere wrecks at the mercy of the pitiless storm. The want of additional accommodations for the Insane of our State, who have of late increased in numbers to an alarming extent, is felt and acknowledged by every one;—and during our present session, we have been memorialized by the philanthropic and noble hearted Miss D. L. Dix, to make an appropriation for the erection of an additional State Hospital. But the alley and streets which the Legislature are asked to close, are not yet opened to the grounds of Mount Hope, and in the petition of the Sisters of Charity, it is alleged “that it is not probable that the public convenience will ever require them to be opened through the grounds of the petitioners.” If the public convenience should not require it, then the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore can never direct the opening of these streets, and the grounds of Mount Hope will be protected; and thus this Hospital will be forever unmolested. Your committee are of opinion, and therefore recommend that Bolton street, Laurens street, Robert street and Mason alley ought not to be opened through the grounds attached to Mount Hope Hospital, as prayed by the Sisters of Charity in their petition.

But in submitting this recommendation, your committee do not wish to be considered as expressing an opinion that the closing of these streets, &c., would be a loss or injury to the owners of ground in the immediate vicinity. It seems to be a well settled principle of law, that any corporation created for purposes of private advantage and emolument, though the public may derive a common benefit therefrom, is to be regarded as a private company. If the Sisters of Charity, who are the owners of Mount Hope, can be considered as a private company, “in the eye of the law,” then it is for the Legislature to determine whether they should make adequate compensation to the owners of property in the immediate vicinity thereof, provided the owners of such property should sustain any loss, injury or damage, by the closing of the streets hereinbefore mentioned.

The Legislature by the acts of 1849, chapter 71, section 4, and chapter 323, section 3, and more especially by the act of 1849, chapter 532, entitled, “a further supplement to an act to incorporate the Baltimore and Susquehanna Railroad Company,” seems to have directed the closing of certain streets in cases similar, or nearly so, to the one under consideration, without making any